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VOLUME XIV.

BRENNHAM, WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1879.

NUMBER 5.

The Brenham Banner

Published Daily and Weekly.

RANKIN & LEVIN, Proprietors.

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The Sherman Register says there is not a vacant dwelling house in that city. It is the same in Brenham and nearly every other live town in Texas, and what is better the country is keeping pace with the towns and cities.

The capital building at Austin is in such a dilapidated condition that it was deemed unsafe to have the inauguration ball in the hall of the house of representatives. Texas is certainly large enough to have a good state house.

Four six-pound brass howitzers have arrived at Bryan for the Agricultural and Mechanical college.

Good gracious! Are we to have war? Has brass howitzers anything to do with agriculture or mechanics?

GALVESTON'S "pet" vagrant, Col. Horace Yammer, who has been off on a cruise on one of the mosquito fleet has returned to his old range, and as usual has been interviewed by a *News* commissioner especially deputed for that purpose.

The weekly bank statement of the associated bank of New York for last week shows an increase in specie of \$87,100 and an increase in deposits of \$3,300,000. The figures indicate that resumption is working smoothly and satisfactorily.

The Galveston Journal of Commerce in its last edition publishes a handsome cut of the new Galveston Cotton Exchange, which has just been completed. The building is very handsome and is an ornament to the island city.

The Dallas Commercial says Miss Pomeroy, who was injured by an accident on the Texas and Pacific railway some days ago, is improving slowly, but her hopes of appearance on the stage again this season are very slim. Her dates in Texas will be cancelled.

The attempt of the Texas legislature to tamper with the financial problem is a useless expenditure of time and money and can result in no good. The federal government is abundantly able to handle this obtrusive subject.

The Teller committee is in session at Charleston, S. C. They have examined several negro witnesses who testified to crookedness on the part of the democrats. Several democrats testified to the general good behavior of the colored people.

The directory of the A. and M. college, held a meeting at Austin on Friday. The proceedings were harmonious and the institution is reported to be in a flourishing condition. The colored college will, it is thought, be declared a failure and disbanded.

ELIZABETH CARY STANTON, Susan Anthony and others have again come to the front and presented a petition to the United States Senate asking a constitutional amendment to prohibit the several states from disfranchising persons on account of sex.

GREENBACKISM is on the wane in Galveston. A meeting was called at Emmett hall for Thursday night, but in the language of the *News*, the greenbackers failed to materialize. Some came to the hall, but finding it in darkness departed in disgust. The greenback race is run.

The local on the Sherman Register is a "dogged" poet, that is he writes poetry about dogs. His opening verse reads, "A man he had an ugly dog," half a dozen lines of similarly beautiful verse follow. He explains that some of the lines don't rhyme very well, but excuses himself upon the ground that they are true.

The Indian question seems to be a very difficult one to settle, the joint committee on the advisability of transferring the management of the Indian service to the war department, had a meeting and voted 4 in favor of and 4 against the transfer. The matter is now no nearer a settlement than it was before the committee was appointed.

In reply to the remark of another newspaper that "a little wholesale hanging in Texas would prove helpful to society," the Marshall Herald says a retail business will do. Mistakes might be made.

The bill introduced in the house by Mr. Upton to increase the penalty for carrying concealed weapons to \$200 and giving half the fine to the informer is a good one. Such a law thoroughly and impartially enforced would perhaps break up the now too prevalent habit of "packing" pistols.

The British Medical Journal says great alarm prevails in Eastern Europe over the rapid spread up the Volga river, in south-eastern Russia, of an extremely fatal disease, believed to be the plague brought to Russia by two regiments of Cossacks. The disease spreads very rapidly and but few recover.

A FATAL shooting occurred in Wayne county, Mississippi. Three negroes had a misunderstanding with three white men, brothers, named Gamblin, the negroes, who fired on them, wounding two and fatally injuring the third. The Gamblins returned the fire, killing two of the negroes.

Mr. ESTES, a member of the house of representatives at Austin, seems anxious to establish a reputation as a financier and with this laudable object in view, he introduced a bill to make Mexican coin a legal tender in Texas for all dues, public and private, except otherwise provided by contract. He might as well include Chinese and other foreign coin.

The Dallas Commercial is at a loss to account for the motives of Reed, the defaulting Galveston bank cashier. Reed had an easy position and a salary of \$5000 per year, and so far there is no known cause for his running away. It may have been pure cussedness on his part, or he may have become involved in a scrape that would not redound to his credit.

REV. D. G. GREGORY retires from the editorial tripod of the *LaGrange Record*, though he retains his proprietary interest. R. J. Andrews mounts the raw hide bottom editorial chair and promises to make the paper interesting. He says he is young and inexperienced. The path of the country editor is not strewn with roses; nor is he liable to grow suddenly rich.

THE BANNER is in receipt of the February number of the *American Agriculturist*, this old and favorite magazine is now in its 38th year. The present number has the usual and varied amount of interesting and instructive matter and in addition has many fine illustrations. It is published by the Orange Judd Company, 245 Broadway, New York at the low price of \$150 per year.

The public schools, as now conducted, outside of the cities in Texas are generally pronounced to be not only a failure, but a fraud upon the community. The system under which they are operated is said to be worthless. THE BANNER will have something to say on this subject in a few days. It is in favor of an efficient system of public free schools for the counties.

MORRISON RENSNAW, a reporter of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, was put in jail for contempt by the judge of the criminal court. He attempted to get out by an appeal to a higher court, but it was decided that he stay in jail until purged of the contempt, if it takes his natural life time. He published something that had transpired in the grand jury room and refused to give his informant.

PEOPLE whose annual taxes—state, and county—do not amount to more than five or ten dollars complain that they are taxed to death; the richer class of people whose taxes are much higher are not a whit behind their poorer neighbors in their complaints. A large majority of the poorer or small tax payers find means to spend ten times the amount of their taxes for whiskey and tobacco and have the time to spare to drink the whiskey. This of course is their own business, but they should do a little less grumbling and a little more work.

In Houston the order of the Knights of Honor is in a prosperous condition. There is now some two hundred members of the order in the city. On Saturday night one lodge had sixteen applications for membership. So far there has been but one death. The average cost per member last year upon death assessment was about \$10—a cheap insurance, says the *Telegram*.

A. & M. COLLEGE.—A correspondent of the *Waco Examiner* regards the Agricultural and Mechanical college as an immense and very hungry elephant. He thinks it should be what its name imports—a school to make farmers and mechanics and to dignify labor. The writer had not heard of the six pound brass howitzers. He calls upon Grangers to come to the rescue.

EXTENSIVE preparations are being made in Galveston for the coming Mardi Gras celebration on February 25th. It is intimated by the *News* that the occasion will be one of unusual splendor, neither pains nor expense having been spared in providing the most brilliant costumes and paraphernalia for the occasion. Invitations will be issued early in February.

CONGRESSMAN REAGAN's bill regulating railroads having passed the house, a Boston *Globe* reporter was detailed to interview the leading railroad men. As might have been expected the railroad men are bitterly opposed to any legislation on the subject, taking the ground that congress might as well attempt to regulate the sale of goods as the tariff of railroads. Such a law, they say, would only lead to additional complications of a matter that is already very much complicated.

MR. SLEDGE, the distinguished colored member from Washington county, has come to the front; he has introduced a bill in the house. He wants everybody to save his bacon, and with this object in view he wished a law passed, exempting from forced sale 200 bushels of corn and 500 pounds of bacon per each and every family. Mr. Gay, also colored, and from this county, has not yet been heard from, but he too, will no doubt soon present a bill.

THE Dallas Herald has a good one on Judge Norton, the lately defeated radical candidate for governor. It says besides being postmaster he publishes a daily newspaper known as Norton's *Intelligencer*, though the fact is not generally known. [Several of the faithful in Brenham take Norton's paper, though there never was any news in it.—Ed.] On Monday the Judge received his re-appointment as postmaster, and felt so happy over it that he at once sat down and wrote a leading editorial on "Brood Sows."

THE Houston *Telegram* objects to the whipping post as the relic of a past age, and also on account of its barbarity. If men or women steal they should suffer the consequences. If the law passes and men or women steal, they will do it with a knowledge of what awaits them. Under existing circumstances honest people who work and pay their taxes are charged with the support of petty thieves in the county jails. As between the post and the jail, the only question is shall the rogues or the honest people suffer.

An Austin special to the *News* gives the following: Sheriff Wilson, of Palo Pinto county, who came here to attend the sheriff's convention and got on a protracted spree. On the 23d about midnight he passed some men on the sidewalk in front of a Congress avenue saloon. Some man making a remark which he construed as an insult, he drew his pistol and began firing, shooting three times. One ball struck Sam Ball, city marshal of Sherman, mangle his finger, another destroyed his watch, the third struck a Mr. Ellison, inflicting a serious wound. While shooting, Ball and others opened fire, killing him on the spot. The coroner jury justified Ball who was released.

THE Waco *Examiner* says, the members of the State Grange at Sherman, were a body of earnest, devoted and almost enthusiastic representatives, each one a host in himself. Its animus shows that the grange is so far from being dead is just beginning to live. According to the reports of the secretary, the number of live, active granges in the State may simply be placed at 500.

THE Sedalia (Mo.) *Democrat* is earnestly advocating the establishment of the whipping post in Missouri. It says: Honest people, in this State are getting heartily sick and tired of feeding and clothing, from year's end to year's end, a lot of lazy vagabonds who steal to get into jail, and who steal just enough to keep out of the penitentiary. Right here, in this town of Sedalia, there are a dozen jail birds who will have to be supported for a whole year, at the rate of fifty cents a day, and who, when their time is out, will, in a majority of instances, make haste to get back again to their comfortable quarters.

In Texas it is much the same; there are but few jails in the state that are empty.

N. A. T., the voracious correspondent of the Galveston *News* has been on a hunt to the Big Thicket in Liberty county. He tells what he saw. He says the "Big Thicket" is the "hell-roaringest" place he ever got into. The people are all tall, low-faced pot-bellied and have the chills. They live entirely on game cooked by frying, corn-dodgers and fried bacon. The deduction is that no smart man was ever raised on fried bacon and corn bread. He found a majority of the people in the thicket very ignorant, poorly housed and worse clothed. The probability is that if N. A. T. goes back to the thicket and the boys catch him that they will put a head on him that would do honor to a government mule.

THE Philadelphia *Sunday Mercury*, of recent date, contains an able editorial upon "our finances," from which we extract the following concluding paragraphs which contain a world of truth: "It would have been much better for the interests of the people of the United States, high and low, rich and poor, and for the national honor, had Congress abstained altogether from tinkering with the question of finance. It is a subject which is at all times difficult to handle judiciously, even when sagacious clear-headed and honest statesmen undertake the labor; but under existing conditions its intricacies become more than ever formidable and therefore its further discussion at this time can not be too earnestly and generally deprecated.

Where an effect, whether good or evil, is the result of natural causes, it is always safe, and indeed, advisable, to rely upon similar agencies to work a remedy. Had this truth been recognized sooner with regard to this matter of the national finances, much wasted time might have been saved, much foolish and fruitless legislation avoided, and an era of renewed prosperity and happiness long since made possible.

At 10 o'clock on Friday night a fire was discovered in the brick building used as a store-house and office by the lessees of the penitentiary in Huntsville. Everything, including the books was lost. Col. Ward's fine dwelling was also destroyed and the penitentiary building narrowly escaped the same fate. The total loss is estimated at \$75,000. The Galveston *News* correspondent told all his effects except his "prayer book" and a pair of slippers. We congratulate him on saving his prayer book—to a newspaper man a prayer book is as indispensable as a pencil.

"The Denison Herald" favors the whipping post in an editorial column in length. The *Lampasas Dispatch*, the *Mexia Ledger*, and in fact nearly all the respectable and influential papers in Texas are in favor of it," so says the Brenham BANNER. The Herald has for more than two years been advocating the whipping post, and we are very glad to see so many of our best State exchanges are advocating the same measure. We recognize in the BANNER one of the oldest and most persistent advocates of the post in the State.—Denison Herald.

Senate, Jan. 23.—The committee on the public schools are recommending the following condition: Bill to protect the shipper, 40947, operative of the season. Insure pay with the season. Recommending appointment of joint committee to investigate penitentiaries at Rusk and Huntsville.

Executive session held, Templeton confirmed as secretary of state and Ball as assistant attorney general.

House.—Mr. Loe asked that his bill to provide for building capitol be transferred to judiciary committee.

By Mr. Bryan, joint resolution memorializing congress to send a commission to countries where yellow fever has its habitation, to study the same thoroughly. Passed.

By Stewart of Houston, Resolving the payment of a poll tax as a condition precedent to voting.

The usual number of bills and resolutions were offered.

Senate, Jan. 24.—The number of newspapers to be taken by the senate was discussed at some length and finally allowed to remain as it was.

Resolution by Mr. Motley that officers, chaplains and clerks of the senate receive \$5 per day. Adopted.

Mr. Hobby was elected president pro tem of the senate. The senate went into executive session. No final action.

House.—The speaker announced special committee to visit penitentiaries: Baker, chairman; Coleman, and Stewart, of Delta.

Petition from citizens of Grimes requiring payment of poll tax before voting.

A large number of bills and resolutions were referred.